Secrt. H-27—40,000—27-10-52.

FOOD (1948) Department.

MB. SERIES.

G.O. No. 102

Dated 4.12.48.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Assembly—Starred Question No.764 relating to Total production, distribution etc. of potatoes during 1947—Papers forwarded.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE.
Assembly Section.

STARRED QN.NO.764.

By Sri V.I. Munuswamy Pillai M.L.A.,

*Q.No.764. Will the Honourable the Minister for Food be pleased to state:-

(a) the total quantity of Nilgiri potatoes estimated to be lifted during the main Kar crop (July to November 1947);

(b) the total quantity earmarked for ration shops; local consumption other than rationing, seed and export to foreign provinces;

(c) how much was exhausted from the total available quanity upto 30.9.1947 and what is the remaining stock for disposal now;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the disposal of potatoes the Government have fixed a proportion of 40% to all merchants, 40% to Nilgiris Co-operative Marketting Society Ltd., and 20% to growers;

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the affirmative why the Government deviated from the above accepted proportion;

(f) whether the Government have received any representations for the immediate removal of the control over the free movement of potatoes in this Province and

(g) what is the decision of the Government in the matter?

FOOD DEPARTMENT.

ANSWER.

(a) 28,500 tons (excluding 9000 tons required for consumption and seed purposes in the Nilgiris)

(b) 22,303 tons as per details shown below;

1.	Ration shops	3000.0 tons
2.	Local consumption other than ration shops	5038.0 tons
3.	Seeds	1998.5 tons
4.	Foreign exports (including military requirements)	12266..5 tons
	Total	22303.0 tons.

(c) Quantity exhausted: 18,276.5 tons
Remaining stock for disposal after 30.9.47.

28,500 - 22,303 = 6,197
22,303 - 18,276.5 = 4,026.5
10,223.5 tons

(d) YES.

(e).....

(e) The Government were fully aware of the percentage while sanctioning a special export quota of 3000 tons in favour of A class merchants. The quota had to be allowed with a view solely to finding an immediate market for the deteriorating stock. A strict adherence to the proportion fixed for the various categories would not have helped the speedy disposal of the stock and there was on the other hand every likelihood of the stock being spoiled altogether, unless exported at once to the regular consuming areas outside the Province. It was also out of the question to release those potatoes for consumption in the domestic market which had been supplied already to the full limit.

(f) Y.E.S.

(g) The Government have since removed the control over the movement and prices of potatoes within the Province.

(Sd.).

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

The above answer has been approved by the Honourable Minister for Food).

To

The Secretariat of the Madras Legislature. (5 copies)
Copy to Public (Elections) Department.

(Sd.)

OFFICE ASSISTANT
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

C.N.V.
5.12.

Assistant Secretary.

The question has been answered in the Assembly on 27.11.47 by H.M. (Food). Printed proceedings of the Assembly dated/27.11.47 may be awaited for further action if any, till 5.1.48.

(Sd.)

D.S.

The printed proceedings have not yet been received. This may continue to lie over till 20.1.48.

(Sd.)

Nilgiris potatoes.

*457 Q.- SRI K.BOKKAI GOWDER (On behalf of Sri V.I. Muniswami Pillai): Will the Honourable the Minister for Food be pleased to state--

(a) the total quantity of Nilgiris potatoes estimated to be lifted during the main kar crop (July to November 1947)-

(b) the total quantity earmarked for ration shops, local consumption other than rationing, seed and export to foreign provinces;

(c) how much was exhausted from the total available quantity up to 30th September 1947 and what is the remaining stock for disposal now;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the disposal of potatoes the Government have fixed a proportion of 40% to all merchants, 40 per cent to Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society, Limited, and 20 per cent to growers;

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the affirmative, why the Government deviated from the above accepted proportions;

(f) whether the Government have received any representations for the immediate removal of the control over the free movement of potatoes in this Province; and

(g) what is the decision of the Government in the matter?

THE HONOURABLE DR. T.S.S RAJAN:- "(a) 28,500 tons (excluding 9,000 tons required for consumption and seed purposes in the Nilgiris).

"(b) 22,303 tons as per details shown below:

	Tons.
(1) Ration shops	3,000.0
(2) Local consumption other than ration shops	5,038.0
(3) Seeds	1,998.5
(4) Foreign exports (including military requirements)	12,266.5
Total	23,303.0

"(c)....

"(c) Quantity exhausted 18,276.5
Remaining stock for disposal after
30th September 1947

	Tons.
28,500-22,303 =	6,197.0
22,303-18,276.5 =	4,026.5
	10,223.5"

"(d) Yes.

"(e) The Government were fully aware of the percentage while sanctioning a special export quota of 3,000 tons in favour of A class merchants. The quota had to be allowed with a view solely to finding an immediate market for the deteriorating stock. A strict adherence to the proportion fixed for the various categories would not have helped the speedy disposal of the stock and there was on the other hand every likelihood of the stock and there was on the other hand every likelihood of the stock being spoiled altogether, unless exported at once to the regular consuming areas outside the Province. It was also out of the question to release these potatoes for consumption in the domestic market which had been supplied already to the full limit.

"(f) Yes.

"(g) The Government have since removed the control over the movement and prices of potatoes within the Province"

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:- "Arising out of the answer given by the Honourable Minister regarding deviation may I know whether the views of the Potato Advisory Committee appointed by the Government were obtained with regard to the special quota of three thousand tons sanctioned exclusively for A class merchants?"

THE HONOURABLE DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:- "The question of consulting the merchants did not arise since the stocks were deteriorating, the the Collector was asked to inspect the stock and make the arrangements necessary, which he did, and he decided to allow three thousand tons for export from the stock which was expected to deteriorate rapidly."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Is it a fact, Sir, that the Collector of Nilgiris has sent a report to the Government and that along with it a letter has been enclosed by a Member of this House stating that the quota allotted to Harijans should be given to him exclusively?"

THE HONOURABLE DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:- "The Government have not received any such thing."

SRI K.BOKKAI GOWDER:-- "Is it a fact that on the recommendation of the Collector, three thousand tons of quota for export outside the province was sanctioned exclusively for A class merchants?"

THE HONOURABLE DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:--" Representation of deterioration were made by the merchants, and their stock was inspected by the Collector and three thousand tons were ordered to be exported."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:-- "Are the Government aware that a letter was read in the Potato Committee of the Nilgiris, written by XX a Member of this House, stating that the special quota allotted to Harijans should be given to him exclusively? Will theGovernment enquire into the matter?"

THE HONOURABLE DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:--"This is a matter that has got to be enquired into: the Government are not in a position to give the answer straightway."

Sri V.M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:--"May I ask whether there is any ban on the sale of seed potatoes to persons outside the province? Surely some facilities should be given to the owners of surplus seeds, if any?"

THE HONOURABLE DR.T.S.S. RAJAN:--"The whole position has been explained already and there is no question of a ban on potatoes or seed potatoes."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:-- "Is it a fact that the A class merchants were given permission, with reference to the stock held by them which were deteriorating, to export them?"

THE HONOURABLE DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:-- "I think so, Sir. Representations were made by A class merchants and the Collector of the Nilgiris was asked to inspect the stock; and after his inspection, 3,000 tons of potatoes were asked to be exported out of the stock that was deteriorating."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:-- "In view of the fact that the usual practice of the Board of Revenue was to sanction a particular month's quota towards the end of the previous month, could not the October quota for Madras Province be distributed among the A class merchants in September instead of foreign quota in order to dispose of their reported stock?".

THE HONOURABLE DR. T.S.S. RAJAN:-- "Many things could have been done; but the fact was that the Nilgiris Collector was asked to inspect and make recommendations, and on the strength of his report the export quota was sanctioned."

Assistant Secretary.

The printed proceedings of the Assembly pasted at page 4-5 above may be perused.

X on page 5 above: The letter referred to by the member would appear to be the one written by Sri V.I. Munuswami Pillai requesting the Potato Controller to issue him permits to despatch two wagons of potatoes out of the quota of 50 tons reserved for scheduled castes - vide copy of Sri V.I. Muniswami Pillai's Lr. at page 127 c.f. of j in the top file. Action on the alleged abuse of powers by the non-official members (Mr. Munnuswami Pillai etc.) of the Potato Advisory Committee has already been started separately-vide do of Mr. Munuswami Pillai at page 9 c.f. in the top file. This may therefore be recorded as a Ms. Order for future reference.

(Sd.)

G.O.Ms.No.102 d/4.2.48.

Legislative Assembly questions--Starred--C.S. Potatoes--total production, distribution. etc., During 1947--Papers recorded.

R. Thiyagarajan 12.12

OFFICE ASSISTANT
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

14/12/53 dt 14/12

C.N.V.
5.12.